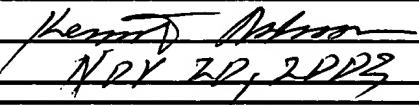
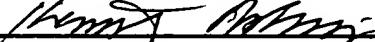


Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

TRANSMITTAL FORM <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>		Application Number	09/645,279
		Filing Date	August 24, 2000
		First Named Inventor	Caren H. Baker
		Art Unit	2122
		Examiner Name	Mary J. Steelman
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	3	Attorney Docket Number	EMPIR-020PUS

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)						
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Technology Center (TC) <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please Identify below): Return Postcard Rule 56 Letter	RECEIVED NOV 26 2003 Technology Center 2100			
				<input type="checkbox"/> Remarks		
				In the event a petition for extension of time is required by this paper and not otherwise provided, such petition is hereby made and authorization is provided herewith to charge deposit account No. 50-0845 for the cost of such extension.		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT		
Firm or Individual	Kermit Robinson	Reg. No. 48,734
Signature		
Date	NOV 26 2003	

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING		
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1460 on this date:		
Typed or printed	Kermit Robinson	
Signature		Date

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/645,279 Confirmation No.: 3823

Applicant : Caren H. Baker et al.

Filed : August 24, 2000

T.C./A.U. : 2122

Examiner : Mary J. Steelman

Docket No. : EMPIR-020PUS

Customer No. : 022494

Certificate of Mailing (37 C.F.R. 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, T.C./A.U. 2122, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date set forth below.

NOV 20, 2003

Date of Signature
and Mail Deposit

By:



Kermit Robinson

Reg. No. 48,734

LETTER UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.56

RECEIVED

NOV 26 2003

Technology Center 2100

MS Amendment
T.C./A.U. 2122
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant would like to bring to the attention of the Examiner in the above-identified application the existence of the following co-pending U.S. patent application:

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/481,151 filed on January 12, 2000.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application or this letter, he or she is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

DALY, CROWLEY & MOFFORD, LLP

Date: Nov 28, 2003



Kermit Robinson
Reg. No. 48,734
Attorney for Applicant
275 Turnpike Street – Suite 101
Canton, MA 02021-2354
Tel: (781) 401-9988, x 24
Fax: (781) 401-9966

Q:\Empir\Empir-020PUS (019)\empir-020pus rule 56 amend.doc